

Tunnel will double rail capacity between New York City and New Jersey

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(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires has advanced \$3.5 million in funding for the Trans-Hudson Express Tunnel, a 9.3-mile new commuter rail system that will run under the Hudson River from the Secaucus Junction Station in New Jersey to 34th Street Penn Station in New York City. This funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives and represents the first time the House has provided funding for this project. This federal commitment shows that this significant addition to area mass transit is needed to accommodate the projected economic development in the region, to alleviate traffic congestion, and boost regional security.

The \$7.2 billion project that will move 1.5 million people west of the Hudson River includes a state-of-the-art two-track tunnel under the Hudson River and a new rail terminal under 34th Street in Manhattan, adjacent to Penn Station. THE Tunnel, as it is commonly referred, will transport the projected manpower needed for the 400,000 new jobs that are expected to be generated by major new development in Midtown Manhattan over the next few years.

"This historic addition to the mass transit system in the region is indispensable if we want to see prosperity in Hudson County," said Congressman Sires. "Thousands of New Jersey residents will have an alternative transit system that will alleviate congestion while taking them to new job opportunities across the river."

The funding has been assigned from the New Starts Program of the Federal Transit Administration. THE Tunnel will also serve passengers from Morris, Somerset, Hunterdon, Union, Bergen, and Passaic Counties in New Jersey and Orange and Rockland Counties in New York. Construction is expected to begin in 2009. More information as well as renderings of the project can be found on the New Jersey Transit's website, www.njtransit.com.

The Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill passed the House and now awaits consideration in the U.S. Senate before heading to a conference between both chambers.

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